

imagine life without domestic violence



Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence 101

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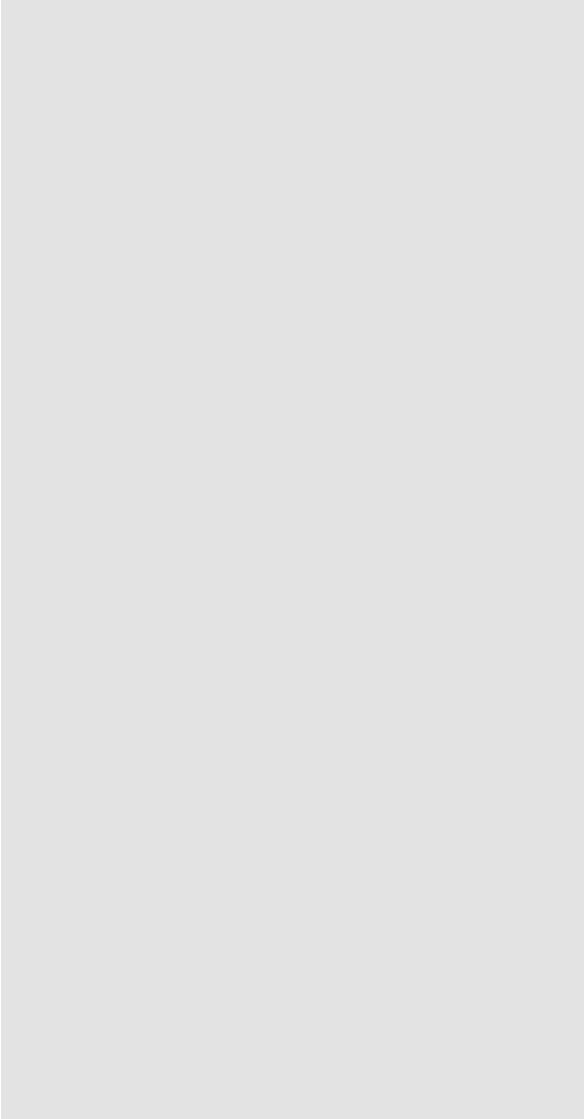
Learning Objectives

- Recognize some of the myths surrounding Domestic Violence
- Define DV and understand the dynamics
- Recognize types of abusive behaviors
- Understand how DV may be learned and the impact on victims and children
- Understand the prevalence of DV

Domestic Violence is a range of behaviors used to establish power and exert control by one intimate partner over the other
(California Partnership to End Domestic Violence)

Domestic Violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that adults or adolescents use against their current or former intimate partners
(Missouri Coalition Against DV)

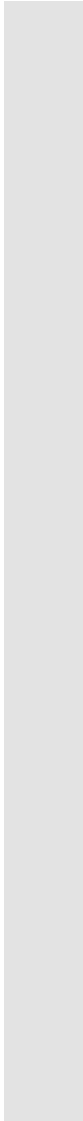
Defining Domestic Violence



Myths and Facts about Domestic Violence



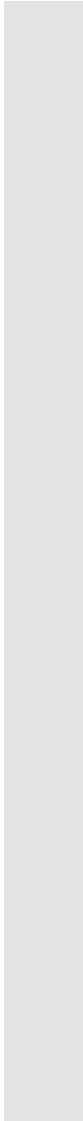
**Domestic Violence only happens
in low-income families**



**Alcohol and drugs cause
domestic violence**



**Domestic Violence is an anger
control issue**



**Children are not aware of
violence in their home**

More Facts

FACT: In 2023, the most recent year of data, California law enforcement agencies fielded more than 160,000 calls related to domestic violence, or 18 calls per hour.

FACT: Domestic Violence leads to murder. Of the estimated 4,970 female victims of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter in 2021, data reported by law enforcement agencies indicate that 34% were killed by an intimate partner.

FACT: From 2020 through 2024, firearms were involved in 13.7% of violent crime incidents involving domestic relationships, but for those incidents that reported non-domestic relationships that number was higher, 32.6%

FACT: Domestic Violence costs the US economy roughly \$8 billion annually through medical costs, productivity/absenteeism, loss of wages, etc.

FACT: Over 55% of all female homicide victims in America are killed by current or former intimate partners.

Types of Abuse

Physical

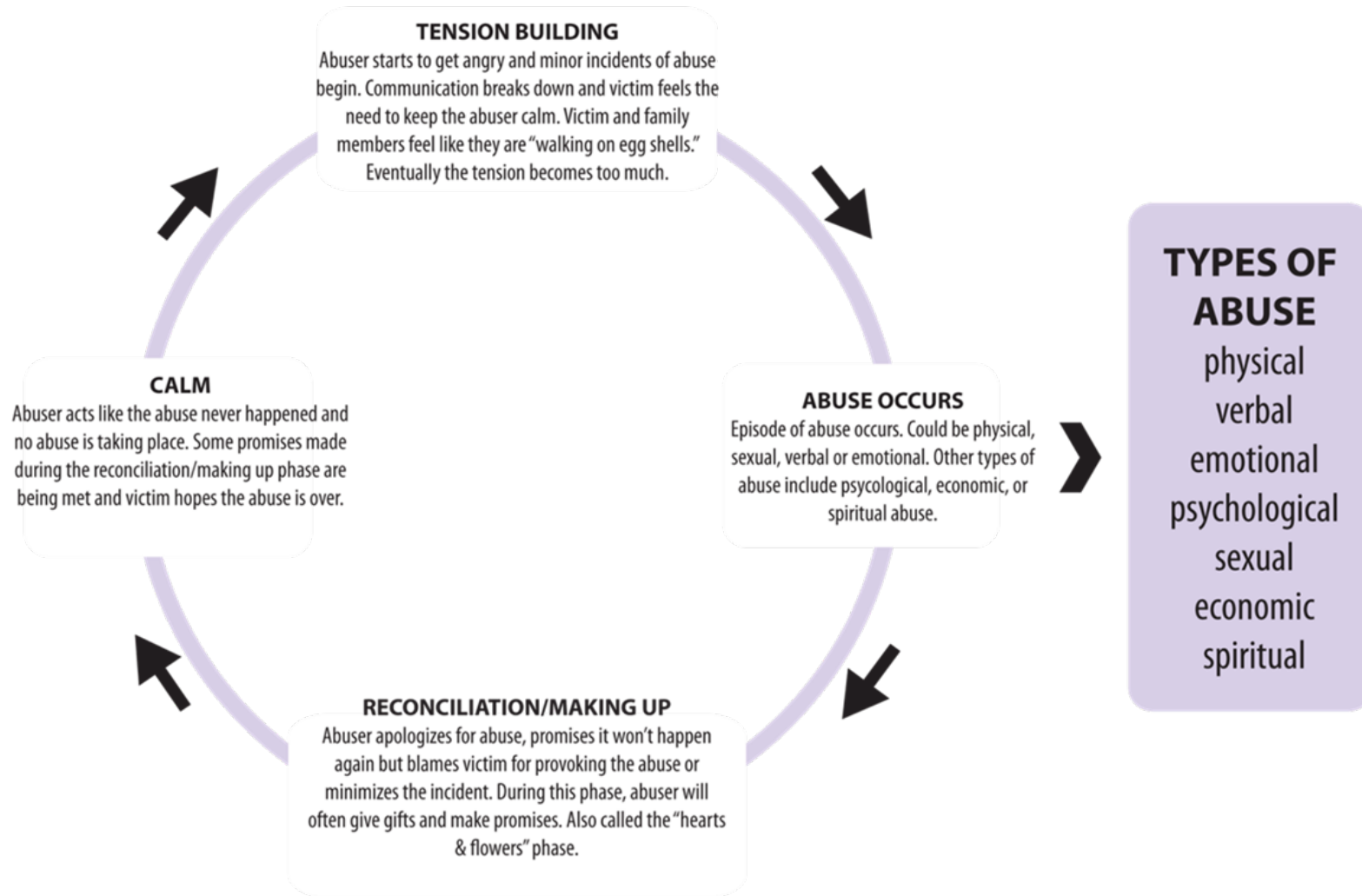
Sexual

Verbal/Emotional/Psychological

Economic/Financial

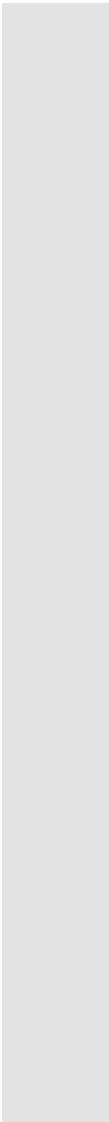
Legal

Stalking/Cyber Stalking/Harassment





Domestic Violence Impact

- **Physical Health Effects**
 - **Mental Health Effects**
 - **Economic Health Effects**
- 

Trauma Reactions

Shock,
disbelief

Fear, anxiety

Grief

Guilt, shame

Denial or
minimization

Depression,
sadness,
despair

Anger,
irritability

Panic

Apprehension

Hopelessness

Emotional
detachment

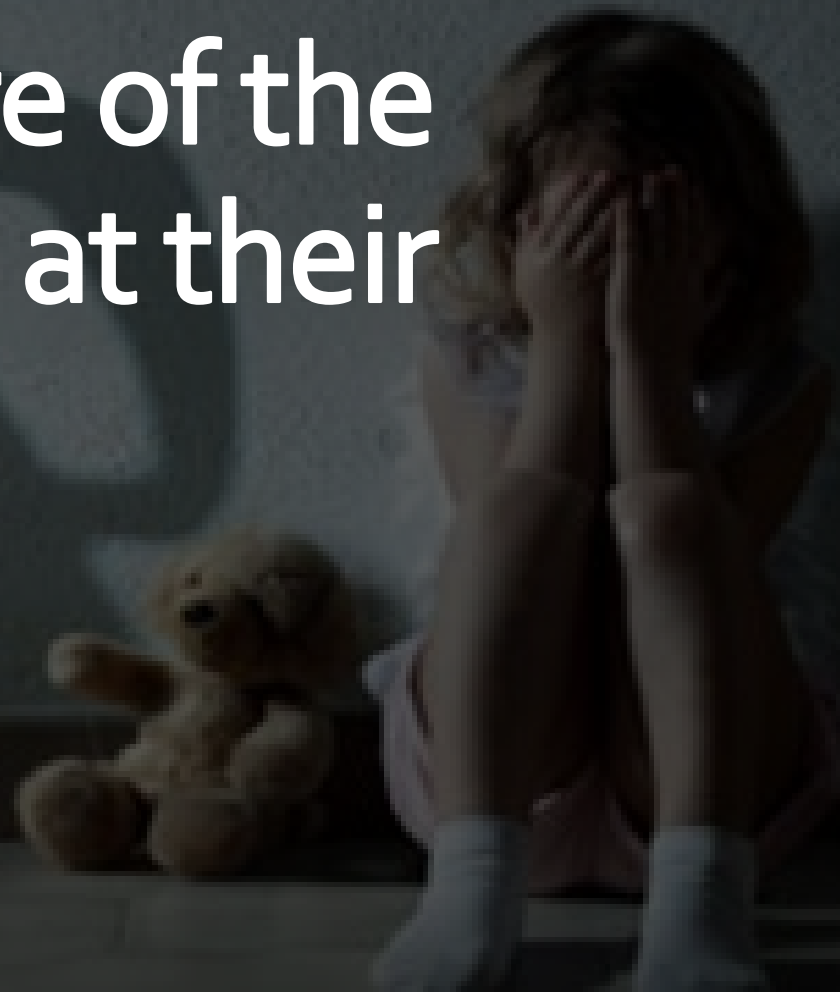
Feeling lost or
abandoned

Increased
need for
control

Trauma Reactions (cont.)

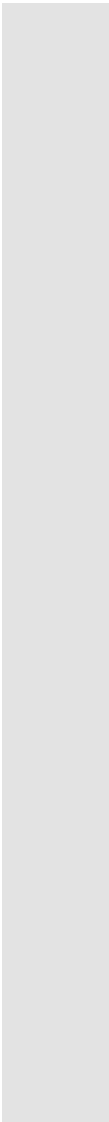
- Difficulty concentrating or making decisions
- Slowed thinking, poor attention span
- Confusion, disorientation
- Blaming self or others
- Mental rigidity
- Memory difficulties
- Nightmares, flashbacks
- Intrusive thoughts
- Hypervigilance
- Lack of trust in anyone

Studies show that most children are aware of the violence directed at their mother.





Impact on Children

- Absenteeism
 - Behavioral issues
 - Poor concentration
 - Developmental delays
 - Risk of perpetuating violence
 - Unexplained injuries
 - Hypervigilance.
 - Abuse in the household slowly becomes normalized for the children.
- 

Family Violence

- 17% of child abuse victims are physically abused, while 74% or neglected. (National Children's Alliance)
- More than 15 million children in the United States live in homes in which domestic violence has happened at least once (Office on Women's Health)



Male Survivors of DV

- About 1 in 10 men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. (CDC, NIPSV)
- Male victimization is real, significant and widely underreported
- Men in same-sex relationships can and do experience IPV, and some studies suggest rates male same-sex relationships can be comparable or higher than heterosexual relationships

Homicide & Domestic Violence

Conditions that increase the likelihood of intimate partner homicide includes:

- Abuser's access to a gun
- Threats or assaults with a weapon
- Threats of homicide
- Prior acts of Domestic Violence

Strangulation

Victims who experience non-fatal strangulation by an intimate partner are 750% more likely to be murdered by that partner in the future.

One study found that the prevalence of strangulation was 38% with Domestic Violence and 12% with Sexual Assault and that most intimate partner encounters with strangulation had significant risk for lethality.

Stalking

About 1 in 6 women & 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking in their lifetime. (CDCP)

Roughly 1 in 4 female victims & 1 in 5 of male victims reported being stalked before the age of 18. (CDCP)

Stalking frequently co-occurs with physical assault and sexual violence, including rape and is a known risk factor for escalation.

Gun Violence & Domestic Violence

- The presence of a firearm makes domestic violence 5x more likely to be lethal. (J. Campbell)
- Multiple analyses show a significant portion of mass shooters have histories of DV
- DV is considered a risk factor for perpetrating mass shootings
- Researchers found that more than 68.2% of mass shootings from 2014-2019, the perpetrator either killed family or intimate partners, or the shooter had a history of DV

Implementing DV firearm prohibitions can help reduce fatal mass shootings.

Stalking / Cyber Stalking and Harassment

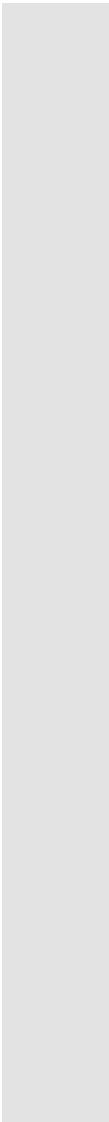
- Threats
- Intimidation
- Passive/covert abuse
- Making lewd, indecent, or obscene comments
- Following/tracking
- Sexting
- Voyeurism
- Sending hate, obscene, threatening emails, or sending viruses and spam

Other Forms of Abuse

Animal Cruelty

Mass Violence

- **Animal Cruelty:**
 - 71% of DV victims in one survey reported that their abuser also targeted a pet
 - 18-59% reported delaying leaving or seeking shelter because they feared for their animals (Ascione; National Link Coalition)
- **Mass Violence:**
 - 27 of 46 mass-shooting cases reviewed in a DOJ funded study involved a perpetrator with a prior DV history or who killed a partner/family member during the shooting



Different Trends in DV

AB 292: Tougher Sentences for Repeat Domestic Violence

Proposed: ↑ Sentences for Domestic Violence Offenders, Result:
Bill Blocked

Why it Matters:

- Accountability: What consequences should repeat or severe DV offenders face?
- Survivor Safety: Stronger penalties may deter some offenders but survivors still need **protection, resources, and safe reporting**
- System gap: if survivors are afraid to report abuse, harsher sentences cannot help in case that NEVER enter the system

Effective DV policy requires **BOTH** accountability for abusers and meaningful protections that allow survivors to safely report abuse

When the Victims Become the Defendant

Domestic violence calls can sometimes result in the victim being arrested alongside the abuser.

2x MORE LIKELY: dual arrests were more than twice as likely in states without primary-aggressor laws. (Hirschel & Deveau 2017)

A key consideration: Self defense can complicate the identification of the primary aggressor; a single incident may not capture the history or pattern of the abuse.

When the Abuser Calls the Police First

The first caller is not necessarily the victim.

Why it Matters:

- Abusers may contact the police first to control the narrative and even portray themselves as the victim
- Can complicate the primary aggressor, particularly when there is a history of coercive control or self-defense (Hirschel & Deveau, 2017)

Who calls first may shape the initial understanding of what happened but the first account may not capture the full pattern of the abuse.

The Chilling Effect of Increased ICE Enforcement on Domestic Violence Reporting

Increased ICE Enforcement → Fear of Deportation → Reporting & Cooperation

- 76% - Advocates report survivors fear calling police
- 50% - Advocates worked with survivors who dropped cases due to deportation fears
- 70.3% - Advocates report survivors fear going to court
- 1 in 5 DV victims in a Bay Area study (Kaur et. Al PLOS ONE) avoided police due to immigration fears

Why it matters? **Immigration status can become a tool of coercive control – abusers may threaten to involve ICE to prevent survivors from leaving.**

VAWA & U visas: protections intended to help survivors seek safety can be undermined when enforcement makes reporting feel unsafe

Fewer reports does not mean less violence, they mean more survivors are afraid to report